

jazz arrangements. Hendricks' impressive body of work has influenced jazz vocalists for decades. He is an "American original," deserving of recognition by the Congress of the United States.

Born in Newark, OH, in 1921, Jon Hendricks began his career as an entertainer singing in the choir of the church where his father served as pastor. He later began singing professionally in nightclubs around Toledo, OH, where his family moved and he grew up. His accompanist for two years was pianist Art Tatum, who, himself, went on to achieve great renown.

After service in the Army, Jon Hendricks returned home and studied law at the University of Toledo. One night, Hendricks was sitting in with legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker. Parker told him to give up law, come to New York City, and pursue work as a jazz singer. Two years later, Jon Hendricks did just that. He found Parker playing at an engagement in Harlem, and almost fainted when Parker invited him up on the bandstand to sing.

In addition to singing, Hendricks sought work in New York as a songwriter. His first chance to record his own material came when King Pleasure invited Hendricks to write lyrics to his version of "Little Boy, Don't Get Scared." Hendricks subsequently developed into one of the greatest jazz lyricists, having authored the words to such jazz standards as "Doodlin," "Tickle Toe," "Cloudburst," and "Yeh Yeh." During the course of his career, he has composed lyrics for music written by such jazz giants as Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk, Sonny Rollins, and many others.

In the late 50s, Jon Hendricks joined Annie Ross and Dave Lambert to form the groundbreaking jazz vocal trio known as Lambert, Hendricks, and Ross. The group quickly gained fame, winning an award in Down Beat's 1959 Poll. Hendricks wrote lyrics to many of the jazz standards that were performed by the group. A trademark of his work is that each song's lyrics constitute a fully realized story. For this, he earned the nickname "the James Joyce of Jive."

Jon Hendricks has recorded numerous albums during his career, the latest being "Boppin' at the Blue Note," released in 1995. On that particular recording, he is accompanied by a vocal ensemble that includes his wife, Judith, their daughters Michele and Aria, and Kevin Burke.

At 79, Hendricks continues to actively pursue his recording and performing career. He has been called "The Poet Laureate of Jazz" and "The James Joyce of Jive." Among his honors are the Grammy Award, as well as Emmy and Peabody Awards for his work on the CBS-TV documentary, "Somewhere to Lay My Weary Head." Congressman CONYERS, along with ASCAP, will bestow special awards upon Mr. Hendricks during a brief ceremony during the concert.

Last year, Hendricks received an honorary Doctor of Performing Arts degree from the University of Toledo. He was also named Distinguished Professor of Jazz Studies and has just begun teaching classes at the university.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present to this body the accomplishments of Jon Hendricks, a musical genius whose songs we all have come to enjoy.

## TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT LONEY

### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Coach Robert Loney. For 42 years, Coach Loney has inspired students and athletes to strive for their personal best.

A native Californian, Coach Loney was born in Riverside and grew up in the City of Pomona. He received his undergraduate degree at Anderson College in Indiana and completed the coursework for his masters degree at Claremont Graduate School in California.

In the fall of 1958, Coach Loney began his career at Upland High School where he taught mathematics and coached the cross country and track teams. In addition, he found time to advise several YMCA clubs. During the course of his career, Coach Loney impacted the lives of well over 1,600 student athletes.

Coach Loney's leadership resulted in 34 League Cross-Country/Track Team Championships, four California Interscholastic Federation Cross-Country/Track Team Championships, and eight California Interscholastic Federation Titles. He has coached two Olympic athletes and launched the collegiate athletic careers of hundreds of students.

While many accolades have been bestowed on Coach Loney, few can compare to the praise his former students continue to express. Years later, his former students attest that he changed their lives by offering the motivation and inspiration they needed to succeed. Coach Loney believed in his athletes, even when they did not believe in themselves.

On Saturday, September 9, 2000 hundreds of former students will return to Upland High School to celebrate Coach Loney's recent retirement. As these individuals pay tribute to a great American by running one final lap for their devoted coach, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing, honoring and commending Coach Robert Loney as an American Hero.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE HEPATITIS C HEALTH CARE ACT

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act. This bill would fundamentally change the way the Department of Veterans Affairs is addressing the growing Hepatitis C epidemic, and would create a national standard for testing and treating veterans for the virus.

For several years, I and other members of this chamber from across the country have been asking the VA to look at the growing problem of Hepatitis C among the veterans population, and to dedicate the necessary re-

sources to fighting this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hepatitis C is a disease of the liver caused by contact with the Hepatitis C virus. It is primarily spread by contact with infected blood. The CDC estimates that an estimated 1.8 percent of the population is infected with the Hepatitis C virus, although that number is much higher among veterans. Vietnam-era veterans are considered to be at greatest risk, since many may have been exposed to Hepatitis C-infected blood as a result of combat-related surgical care during the Vietnam War.

Despite all the attention to Hepatitis C, and all that we are learning about this disease, the VA still lacks a comprehensive, consistent, uniform approach to testing and treating veterans for the virus.

We know this because the VA's handling of Hepatitis C has been raised in hearings in the House, both in the VA/HUD Appropriations subcommittee, of which I am a member, as well as the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations and the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits.

In fact, in the VA/HUD Appropriations subcommittee hearing held on March 22, 2000, former VA Secretary Togo West claimed that the VA was unable to spend all of the Fiscal Year 2000 Hepatitis C funding of \$195 million because the demand was not there. He said, "if you are hearing that we are not using all of say the \$199 million that was appropriated in 2000 for hepatitis C, it would be because we are not seeing that incidence of patients that add up to that much money, essentially."

Unfortunately, we are seeing that incidence of patients, most acutely in New Jersey and New York, but across the country as well. If the VA had properly spent the \$195 million allocated in FY2000 on Hepatitis C testing and treatment, then there would have been little reason for the VA to release \$20 million from the National Reserve Account on June 28, 2000. Based on the VA's own figures, the \$20 million allocation was half of what the 22 Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs, had spent on Hepatitis C in just the first two quarters of FY2000 alone! This money was not even a downpayment toward the Hepatitis C costs being incurred by all 22 VISNs.

Further, only a fraction of the 3.5 million veterans enrolled nationally with the VA Health Care System have been tested to date. Part of the problem stems from a lack of qualified, full-time medical personnel to administer and analyze the tests. Most of the 172 VA hospitals in this country have only one doctor, working a half day a week, to conduct and analyze all the tests. At this rate, it will take years to test the entire enrolled population—years that many of these veterans do not have.

As a result of the VA's inaction, I am introducing the Comprehensive Hepatitis C Health Care Act.

This bill would improve access to Hepatitis C testing and treatment for all veterans, ensure that the VA spends all allocated Hepatitis C funds on testing and treatment, and set new, national policies for Hepatitis C care.

First, the bill would improve testing and treatment for veterans by requiring annual